

More Information

For more information about the BEP, application process or business locations, please contact us:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Business Enterprise Program
PO Box 7852
Madison, WI 53707-7852
(800) 442-3477 (voice)
(888) 877-5939 (TTY)
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr/>

The Department of Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format or need it translated to another language, please contact DVR at (800) 442-3477.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Business Enterprise Program
PO Box 7852
Madison, WI 53707-7852
(800) 442-3477 (voice)
(888) 877-5939 (TTY)
<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr/>

State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce
Development



Business Enterprise Program

*Broadening employment and
economic opportunities for persons
who are blind.*

BEP Facts

- Average 2003 yearly BEP operator earnings were over \$40,000.
- BEP maintains & replaces all equipment.
- BEP businesses are franchise-like operations.

Rewarding Careers

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) matches individuals who are blind or legally blind with business opportunities with excellent earning potential. BEP educates operator-trainees and assists them in becoming self-supporting, independent business operators.

BEP operates efficient and convenient food service businesses. Typical businesses are vending machine operations, snack bars, coffee shops or full-service cafeterias. Sites are located federal, state and municipal properties, such as office buildings, prisons, rest areas and colleges. Current BEP operators receive first option on business sites.

BEP Qualifications

- 20/200 vision or blind.
- 18 years or older & U.S. citizen.
- Can lift 25-50 pounds.
- Can stand for long time periods.
- Can learn & apply business skills.
- Responsible & independent.
- Good personal grooming.
- Satisfactory completion of BEP training.
- Credit rating that allows for purchase of products and supplies.

BEP Training

Program trainees receive classroom training in business, financial and inventory management; human relations, purchasing, marketing, taxes, menu development, food preparation, sanitation, safety; and vending services.

The program is a combination of classroom and on-the-job training. After being awarded a site, operators receive on-going assistance, as needed, for improved profitability, efficiency, machine maintenance and business operation.

BEP History

The Wisconsin Business Enterprise Program is administered through the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The program is sanctioned by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

The BEP program began in 1936 with the passage of the Randolph – Sheppard Act. That federal act gave priority and preference to legally blind individuals in the operation of any vending or cafeteria service in a federally owned, funded or leased facility.

Later, Wisconsin enacted legislation to ensure that state government give similar priority whenever establishing or re-contracting food service or vending operations.